

**DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 25, 2008**

Members Present: Lardizzone, Thompson, Carroll, Corsa, Ennis, Evans, Harden, Kitson, Lank, Spitzfaden, Timberman, and Wasson

Members Excused: Newstadt and Smith

Staff Present: Davila and Reid

Guests: Renee Adams ("Christmas for Veterans" Event), Mo Morris (American Legion), Al Carter and Chris Portante (SOS), Bill McMullen (AF Sergeants Association), Ron Sarg (MOAA), David Rich (DOL) and George Backius.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to our Nations Flag.

Chairman Lardizzone opened the meeting by presenting a plaque to former Chairman Richard Ennis and thanked him for his efforts on Veterans Day at the bridge.

Mr. Rich reported that he is working at organizing a "Stand-down" in the State of Delaware that will target veterans that need assistance in obtaining a job; not just homeless veterans, but any veteran that needs assistance. This event is being planned for July 2009. Involved in the event will be the VA, University of Delaware, and other agencies that provide services to veterans. They are planning a "Dress for success" fashion show that will be utilizing agencies that provide free clothing; they are hoping to use this event to show veterans the attire that is needed for interviews. They will also have employers present that are looking to hire veterans and are hoping to make it a two-day event. He is also working on HVRP grants for agencies looking to help homeless vets. He also reported that he is doing a lot with USERRA (Uniformed Services Employment/Re-employment Act); the cases in Delaware are increasing as the Guard and Reserve are increasing their footprint on deployments. He answered questions in reference to these issues.

Mr. Reid provided the monthly Veterans Home update and the donation list was discussed.

**MOTION BY KITSON TO APPROVE THE DONATION LIST DATED OCTOBER 28, 2008, SECONDED BY HARDEN, MOTION CARRIED.**

Mr. Reid provided the proposed applications for the Memorial Tree and Brick programs at the Veterans Home. He explained the application and requested approval.

**MOTION BY CORSA TO APPROVE THE MEMORIAL TREE AND BRICK PROGRAMS, SECONDED BY CARROLL, MOTION CARRIED.**

Commissioner Carroll commended the organizers of the program held at the Veterans Home on November 16, 2008.

Ms. Renee Adams discussed the "Christmas for Veterans" program and made a request for monetary donations in support of the program.

Commissioner Harden requested two grammatical corrections to be made to the October meeting minutes.

**MOTION BY ENNIS TO ACCEPT OCTOBER COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES AS CORRECTED, SECONDED BY HARDEN, MOTION CARRIED.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**CEMETERY COMMITTEE**

Chairman Lardizzone announced that the Northern Family Advisory Cemetery Committee (FACC) will be having a meeting on December 1, 2008, 1:00 pm.

**COMMEMORATIVE AFFAIRS**

Commission Carroll discussed the “Old Glory” program. He indicated that he is considering it for Flag Day 2009.

**LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS**

Vice Chairman Thompson reported that Governor-elect Jack Markell will meet with the Commission Chairman and Legislative Committee shortly after he is sworn in.

**PERSONNEL**

Vice Chairman Thompson reported that the interviews for the Northern Cemetery position have been conducted and an individual has been selected. The individual has accomplished his physical and will begin his duties at the end of the month. No other positions can be filled at this time do to a hiring freeze.

**ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS**

Spitzfaden (MOAA) – Reported that they will be holding their annual Christmas meeting at Wild Quail, in Camden-Wyoming.

Kitson (VFW) – The Cooties Christmas party for the VFW National Home for Children is scheduled for December 11-14, 2008, in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. The Red, White and Blue Gala will be held on January 31, 2009. The “Voice of Democracy” luncheon scheduled for February 8, 2009, has been moved to Jonathan’s Landing Country Club.

Evans (American Legion) – Their Department Christmas party will be held on December 14, 2008, 1:00-4:00 pm, Harrington Post 7. The Department oratorical contest will be on January 6, 2009, 7:00 pm, at Wesley College. He attended a Veterans Day service at Post 28 at the Georgetown Cheer Center.

Thompson (MCL) – Reported that the five detachments, as well as the Reserve unit, are right in the middle of their “Toys for Tots” Program and it will rap up the third week in December.

Lardizzone (DAV) – They conducted their annual free Veterans Day dinner at the Golden Corral; monetary donations were down this year. He will be attending a State dinner at Buena Vista on December 6, 2008.

Carroll (MOPH) – He hopes that he is still alive when they finally mount the organizational plaques at the Veterans Home. He reported that the VAVS program at the Veterans Home is now operating in conjunction with the program at the VA; those people volunteering at the Veterans Home will be credited in the VA program of awards.

Ennis (KWVA) – Their Department meeting is scheduled at the American Legion Post 2 on December 4, 2008, at 10:00 am. On December 7, 2008, they will be having a Department Holiday party at the Sheraton, 3:00 pm. On December 10, 2008, they will have their 10% day fundraiser at the Rehoboth Beach Road Steak House. On December 12, 2008, they will hold a Chapter 1 Holiday party at Cape Henlopen Elks Lodge, 5:00 pm. They will announce the appointed officers, conduct the swearing-in, present awards, and recognize and remember the members that have passed.

Lank (MOWW) – They have started a project to buy plaques for the Veterans Home and Cemeteries.

Timberman (CPVA) – They made a donation to the Veterans Day Fund and sent a donation to the Newark Memorial Day Committee.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Rich had questions about the State veteran's preference program and discussion followed.

Commissioner Kitson recommended that the Military Order of the Cootie be added to the Commission and discussion followed.

Commissioner Timberman mentioned the new bill indicating that it is acceptable to salute the flag during the Pledge of Allegiance to our Nations Flag, even if the individual is not in uniform.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:      DECEMBER 16, 2008 (10:00 AM)**

**LOCATION:                              Robbins Bldg, 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100  
Dover, DE**

**ADJOURNED**